

I want to forward the enclosed
letter to Mr. Stevens through
you & your sister. I do not
know how it will be ad-
dressed, and I want to make
sure she gets it. (You will
see - please read the letter -
that a most valuable
package - which ought never
to have got to his hands - has
somehow struck fast, and
the American Academy is very
anxious for it. Would you
kindly instruct Mr. Wesley to
receive it, & to pay charges, if
any, letting me refund them -
(which I can do in London if
wished) - and, if the package
has been sent I must have
the evidence of it, & the means
of reclaiming it.

I enclose stamped envelope
for London.

Pray help us; for if I
merely write to Stevens I
shall get no reply, I fear.

Ever yours most truly

Asa Gray

Cambridge. Oct. 18, 1870
My Dear Professor Henry
Welcome home again,
you and your daughter
Mary! And we hope
you have had a delightful
time, and are both well
and hearty. We had reason
to expect so, from what we
learned of you through Mrs.
Henry and the girls when
we had a little glimpse
of them a month ago.
I long to have a talk
with you, and hope that
your affairs may bring
you this way before winter
sets in. How I see
little chance that I shall
get to Washington very soon.
My endeavors to diminish
my College work have
resulted - consequently upon

The extension of Natural
History studies here, under
our new regime - is
a very notable increase
of my professional labors.
- but I hope, only for
a time.

A month hence I
shall be 60 years old
and have earned a good
right, not only to the gray
beard - to which you take
such serious exception -
but, to some effectual
relief from at least
the drudgery of profes-
sional work. But
the prospect is not appar-
ently near, owing to the
impossibility of replacing
me in respect even to the
details of teaching and
administration here.

When you get a spare
hour, please tell me of your
self, your doings, &c. -

I am all alone, Mrs.
Gray - tho' hardly strong
enough to do it, yet likely
to be improved by the change,
has gone to make some
visits on the North River, &c.,
and will be away all this
week and next. So I
have long evenings by myself
- but plenty of occupation
for them. I have been try-
ing ever since you came
home to write to you. But
more pressing things have
been in the way.

This for my letter is a private
one - to you - so, I will
have by you to give my
love to Mrs. Henry & daughters,
and do the official part
over the leaf.

That is to say -